

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 10, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the June 29th derecho and subsequent storms that hit our State this summer crippled power, water, and communication systems, resulting in significant financial damages for residents and businesses and jeopardizing the health and well-being of citizens. Countless West Virginians are still struggling to recover.


We saw firsthand the devastation that the storms and extended power outages caused in our communities, our economy, and to our people. Many of the residents who were affected by the storm – and who are now being denied Individual Assistance – are elderly, or disabled and live on a fixed income. Even during the best of times, many of these West Virginians struggle to maintain basic necessities.

As the State compiles new information related to the losses and expenses incurred by West Virginia residents and businesses, we strongly urge you to favorably consider Governor Tomblin's appeal when it is submitted and to provide all available assistance allowed under the Stafford Act. We also ask that FEMA Administrator William Craig Fugate begin immediate discussions with the appropriate State officials in regard to Governor Tomblin's imminent appeal.


We remain so very proud of the work of our local leaders, first-responders, and National Guard, and we trust that you will do everything in your power to make sure that West Virginians receive the help they need and deserve.

Sincerely,


John D. Rockefeller IV


Joe Manchin III


Nick J. Rahall II


Shelley Moore Capito


David B. McKinley, P.E.